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Conference

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 IN RE: TERRORIST ATTACK ON  
4 SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,

5 03 MD 1570 (SJN)

6 -----x  
7 New York, N.Y.  
8 August 5, 2020  
9 3:00 p.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. SARAH J. NETBURN,

12 Magistrate Judge

13 APPEARANCES

14 APPEARANCES GIVEN ON THE RECORD

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1 (Case called)

2 THE COURT: This is In Re: Terrorist Attacks on  
3 September 11, 2001. The docket number is 03 MD 1570.

4 I am going to call out in order to facilitate this  
5 process counsel's names to make sure we have everybody need on  
6 this call. I understand that on behalf the plaintiff executive  
7 committee that Mr. Andrew Maloney will be speaking; is that  
8 correct?

9 MR. MALONEY: That's correct, your Honor.

10 Thank you. I am here.

11 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

12 And I have been advised as well that Jerry Goldman may  
13 also speak on behalf of the plaintiff. Is that correct?

14 MR. GOLDMAN: That is correct, your Honor.

15 Good afternoon.

16 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

17 And in addition we have Robert Haefelete, from Motley  
18 Rice; is that correct.

19 MR. HAEFELE: Yes, your Honor. Thank you.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 And Sean Carter from Cozen O'Connor; is that correct

22 MR. CARTER: Yes, your Honor. Good afternoon.

23 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

24 Anybody else from plaintiff's side that anticipates  
25 speaking? I know we have other lawyers on line but anyone else

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1 who is speaking?

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Judge, I'm probably not speaking.

3 Sorry for the delay.

4 MS. FLOWERS: Your Honor, this is Joan E. flowers.

5 Good afternoon. I may also speak but only if necessary.

6 THE COURT: Great. Thank you very much.

7 MR. FLEMMING: Your Honor, this is Timothy Flemming  
8 from Wiggins & Childs, and I would speak on behalf of the Maher  
9 group of proposed plaintiffs. We filed papers just this week  
10 should your Honor want to reach the any discussion about these  
11 papers.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 And obviously any other lawyer who hasn't made an  
14 appearance who ends up speaking can obviously state your  
15 appearance at that time. Anybody else from the plaintiff's  
16 side who anticipates speaking at this conference?

17 OK. On behalf of the Republic of Sudan, who going to  
18 be the primary speaker?

19 MS. ERB: Hi, your Honor. This is Nicole Erb, from  
20 White & Case. I am joined by my colleagues Nicolle Kownacki  
21 and Matthew Leddicotte and they will be the primary speakers  
22 today.

23 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

24 I hope everybody on this call is healthy and safe. In  
25 light of the COVID-19 pandemic we're conducting this proceeding

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1       remotely by telephone conference. I, myself am outside of the  
2       district. The conference is being recorded both by electronic  
3       recording and by the court reporter, Ms. Moore, who is here.  
4       Anyone else is strictly prohibited from recording or  
5       rebroadcasting any portion of today's proceeding. I'll remind  
6       everybody that this is a court proceeding. It is open to the  
7       public around to the press and the parties should conduct  
8       themselves just as they would if we were in the courthouse.

9               Lastly, I will request that before anybody, when  
10      anybody begins to speak, if you can state your name again  
11      clearly so that the court reporter can properly attribute your  
12      statements to you. That will facilitate the transcript.

13               So, we are here in connection with a series of  
14      letters. They were filed to Judge Daniels in late June and  
15      he's referred the matter to me as to how to proceed in the  
16      various cases that have been filed and are pending against the  
17      Republic of Sudan. It's my understanding that with respect to  
18      the claims filed by the O'Neil plaintiffs that those claims,  
19      that there's not been a default entered, that they have amended  
20      the complaint and the defendants have appeared and filed a  
21      motion to dismiss.

22               In addition, there are some other cases. The federal  
23      case, Burnett case, where a default has been entered and it is  
24      my understanding that the parties are requesting an opportunity  
25      to amend those pleadings and consolidate in order to jointly

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1 defend any anticipated motions to dismiss.

2 I also understand that the Ashton plaintiff who also  
3 have a default judgment or a default I should say, are  
4 requesting both the opportunity to amend and proceed to a  
5 damages hearing on their default.

6 And lastly, there are some outstanding issues raised  
7 by the Maher complaint. I believe that's M-A-H-E-R, I believe,  
8 that Mr. Flemming handled. I think there are a few cases that  
9 fall in that category represented by attorney Flemming that I  
10 want to get to. I think that that is the landscape for us  
11 today.

12 Maybe I'll begin by asking the party who's going to be  
13 speaking on behalf of the O'Neil plaintiff how you recommend  
14 the Court proceed?

15 MR. GOLDMAN: Thank you, your Honor. This is Jerry  
16 Goldman.

17 This case has been handled on a consolidated basis on  
18 consolidation order back in late in 2003 and the establishment  
19 of the MDL and structure of 2004. And I would defer to the  
20 substantive comments as how we've all pled to (inaudible) and  
21 operate in a consolidated and coordinated basis for purpose of  
22 judicial economy to Mr. Maloney. If the Court wants more in  
23 depth from me, I am prepared to do it but Mr. Maloney would  
24 best and Mr. Carter would best be prepared to describe how we  
25 envision new cases to move forward in the interest of justice

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1 and interests of our client after waiting 16 years.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 All right. Mr. Maloney or Mr. Carter?

4 MR. MALONEY: Yes, your Honor, Mr. Maloney here. One  
5 correction. And maybe Mr. Goldman can comment on this but I  
6 think your Honor described some of the procedural history and I  
7 believe the O'Neil case that was filed back in, I think, 2003  
8 served Sudan and Sudan has been defaulted in that case but I  
9 don't think they ever got a certificate of default from the  
10 clerk. That's the only difference between the original O'Neil  
11 complaint and the other I think four or five complaints where  
12 we did get certificates of default.

13 The 2018 complaint filed by O'Neil I believe is not an  
14 amended complaint. It's a standalone new complaint and I  
15 believe that was done to alleged class certification issues and  
16 redacted that because Jackson had only been passed in late  
17 2016. And I think Mr. Goldman filed a standalone complaint  
18 asserting class allegations so everybody would get the benefit  
19 of Jackson or at least will the (inaudible) injury cases.

20 THE COURT: OK. It's certainly the Court's review --  
21 just so the record is clear, I've reviewed the docket. I don't  
22 see a default entered on the O'Neil original case.

23 One other housekeeping matter, if I can ask everybody  
24 who is not speaking to please mute your line because there's a  
25 lot of outside noise. The only line that should be open right

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1 now is mine and Mr. Maloney who is speaking. Everybody else  
2 should mute their phones. Can everybody one take minute to  
3 make sure they've muted their phones. I still hear somebody in  
4 the background. Can you please mute your line. Please mute  
5 your phone.

6 (Pause)

7 THE COURT: All right. OK. I don't know if that's a  
8 client maybe who is listening in. If the lawyers can please  
9 remind their client, anybody listening has to be on a  
10 listen-in-only. It is not fair to anybody but mostly the court  
11 reporter.

12 OK. Mr. Maloney, we were just discussing that the  
13 2018 case is actually not an amended complaint but a new  
14 complaint and if it is my understanding that was with respect  
15 to the prior O'Neil case that no default certificate was  
16 obtained.

17 MR. MALONEY: Correct.

18 MR. GOLDMAN: Your Honor, this is Jerry Goldman.

19 The first complaint was duly served by state on a  
20 clerk certificate on March 18, 2005. It was filed originally  
21 on March 30, 2004. It too had class allegations and we're  
22 preserving that because the common law allegations, as well as  
23 the other causes of action. The 2018 case was as Mr. Maloney  
24 said duly filed, duly served and was a standalone complaint.

25 With regard to the clerk's certificate, it's our

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position and the case law is clear that a clerk certificate is merely a ministerial act reflecting the circumstances, reflecting the fact that within the (inaudible) required under the Federal Rules there was neither an answer, appearance or other motion or other type of judicial intervention sought by the defendants. Obviously, 60 days past some time in 2005 and we're now 2020, 15 years later.

This Court has and the case law is clear, the inherent jurisdiction to so issue a certificate if it is necessary. The reason we deferred with the certificate was because of the class allegations and I did not want to muddy the water. Although, the law is clear I had until I moved before your Honor for the default proceeding. So, (inaudible) damages and the SIA to move for class certification which, obviously, we would do just like we did in the (inaudible) case.

THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

Let me turn back to Mr. Maloney who I think was going to tell me I think on behalf of the plaintiff executive committee what their recommended course of action is.

MR. MALONEY: Well, as an initial matter, obviously, during the intervening years we continued to collect evidence against Sudan and there have been some very significant legal findings against the Sudan in the 1998 Embassy bombing case and the USS coal bombing case. And we would like to include the updated information, as well as the changes in the law in an

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1 amended complaint. We don't believe that amending the  
2 complaint to include the sub-changes to core allegations and  
3 therefore which we believe should not vacate the original  
4 certificate of default. That still remains. And the Sudan  
5 would have to file an appearance and move to vacate those, the  
6 defaults that are currently obtained by four of the complaints  
7 and potentially the fifth complaint being the original O'Neil  
8 complaint.

9 You may recall, your Honor, that we did this in the  
10 case against Iran for which there was a default. We asked the  
11 Court to allow the complaints against Iran to be amended to  
12 include the change in the Foreign Sovereign Immunity's Act.  
13 1605A7 is now 1605A, which makes clear that the parties have a  
14 private right of action against the state itself and not just  
15 state officials. That's a significant change in the law.  
16 Jackson was a significant one. And there are some new facts  
17 and legal findings that we wanted to include in the amended  
18 complaint and we believe the core allegations against the Sudan  
19 are still the same. The allegations being that they comply  
20 with the Al-Qaeda for many years, supporting Al-Qaeda and  
21 supporting multiple attacks against the United States Americans  
22 including 9/11.

23 THE COURT: OK. And just so I understand your  
24 argument, your view is because the Court previously allowed an  
25 amendment for the claims against Iran to reflect the change in

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1 the law without requiring service again that the default  
2 against the Republic of Sudan should remain in place even if  
3 there is an amendment; is that your position?

4 MR. MALONEY: Yes, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: OK.

6 MR. MALONEY: And I think there is the majority of  
7 authority supports that proposition.

8 THE COURT: Do you cite to any cases in your letter  
9 brief?

10 MR. MALONEY: I don't believe we did but I know I've  
11 done a lot of reading on some of the case cases where Sudan  
12 itself had been involved in the (inaudible) case out of  
13 District of Virginia, the plaintiffs there amended their  
14 complaint twice after the original default was entered and  
15 before default judgment hearing was held. In that case they  
16 later tried to amend a fifth time after the case had gone up  
17 and down on appeal on some collateral issues related to what  
18 the state or federal cause of action for damages could be used.

19 But in that case there are some significant rulings  
20 with respect to the Sudan. And I know in that case they  
21 amended the complaint after the original defaults and it didn't  
22 change the original. The court in that case actually allowed  
23 the Sudan to come in four years later and the Sudan made a  
24 motion to dismiss on jurisdictional grounds. That motion was  
25 denied and the Sudan then informed Court that they were no

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1 longer going to participate in an American courtroom. They  
2 felt that the United States didn't have jurisdiction over them  
3 and they left. So, a second certificate of default was entered  
4 by the clerk against the Sudan and a fourth amended complaint  
5 was filed shortly after that and a default hearing, default  
6 trial was held and the courts found that Sudan was in fact  
7 liable for the U.S. (inaudible) bombings.

8 THE COURT: How do you suggest that the Court  
9 reconcile how we proceeded against Iran which has continued to  
10 remain in default and has never appeared in this case with the  
11 facts here where we have counsel appearing now -- at least in  
12 the O'Neil case -- on behalf of the defendants, and the firm  
13 case law that rejects the notion that a sovereign state should  
14 be found liable in a default posture?

15 MR. MALONEY: Well, your Honor, because there were  
16 several cases including one that went --

17 THE COURT: Is this Mr. Maloney?

18 MR. MALONEY: Yes.

19 That went to the Supreme Court where Sudan tried to  
20 vacate the default for its support of Al-Qaeda in both those  
21 terror attacks and the Court denied it. The Court used  
22 actually the lower standard which is the Rule 55C standard to  
23 set aside defaults where the sovereign would have to show good  
24 cause that there was a mistake inadvertent or unusual  
25 neglect. Conversely, the default was not willful that there

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1 was a meritorious defense that would not prejudice plaintiffs.

2 Under that standard the Rule 55 standard which is a certificate  
3 of default as opposed to default and judgment, the Court denied  
4 Sudan's motion to vacate the defaults. And not just one case  
5 but there are several cases in both those tera-text. They ran  
6 on separate tracks and they found a default by Sudan was  
7 willful and essentially gamesmanship on the part of Susan.

8 So, I don't think -- I think the burden is on Sudan to  
9 try to vacate the defaults here. I think we would oppose that  
10 and I think the Court would have to take notes of its conduct  
11 and look at those other cases for very, very similar -- In  
12 fact, our case is worst because the delay has been much longer  
13 than those other cases and in those cases I could cite and put  
14 them in a letter brief to your Honor that the motion to vacate  
15 for Sudan was denied.

16 MR. CARTER: Your Honor, this is Sean Carter. Could I  
17 just tag onto Mr. Maloney's comment a bit and offer, perhaps, a  
18 sort of roadmap for dealing with the procedural issues?

19 THE COURT: Sure.

20 MR. CARTER: The first your Honor asked whether  
21 there's case law addressing the question about whether the  
22 amendments would need to be served and whether the filing of  
23 amendments would vacate the defaults and a lot of this turns on  
24 whether or not the amendments would result in the presentation  
25 of a new claim within the meaning of the Federal Rules. And

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1 the courts have been pretty clear in the context of terrorism  
2 litigation quite similar to this that the filing of an  
3 amendment that simply defines the sources of law for the, and  
4 causes of action and updates facts does not result in the  
5 presentation of a new claim so long as the essential gist of  
6 the action is the same. And that was Judge Lambert issued a  
7 decision in the In Re: Islamic Republic of Iran Terrorism  
8 Litigation. There was a decision Gates v. Syrian Arab  
9 Republic, which is a D.C. Circuit decision in 2011 and certain  
10 underwriters at Lloyd's reported at 811 F. Supp. 2d 53 which is  
11 the D.C. District Court decision from 2011.

12 We think we're squarely within the four corners of all  
13 of that authority insofar as we're not changing at all the gist  
14 of this action. It's still a tort claim still seeking the same  
15 category of damage resulting from the same injuries from the  
16 same terrorist attack. The gravamen of the complaint remains  
17 the same that Sudan is responsible by virtue of its intimate  
18 collaboration with Al-Qaeda over a number of years. And so  
19 within the framework of those cases, we think it's very clear  
20 that we are entitled to file the amendment. We're not  
21 obligated to serve and it doesn't result in the opening of the  
22 default.

23 Procedurally, what we have right now, your Honor, is  
24 that Sudan as your Honor has observed has not entered an  
25 appearance in Burnette, Ashton, Federal or the Continental

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case. It's simply not before the Court at all. It's somewhat conspicuous because there was an appearance entered in O'Neil. And because that happened, we went out of our way back in February to reach out to counsel for Sudan, provide them with copies of the service papers from the other action, provide them with copies of the certificate of default and to try and see whether there was common ground.

There has not been, Sudan still has not entered an appearance in the other cases. As recently as this week a pro hac vice motion was filed which was specifically and expressly limited to O'Neil. So, our perspective on this is that what the Court has right now is an unopposed motion to file amendments in Burnette, Ashton, Federal and Continental relative to a defendant that has not yet appeared. And one sets file that defendant will have an option, it can either choose to appear in those actions and defend the claims against it and try to assert a posture similar to the one in O'Neil or it will decide it doesn't want to do that. If it does appear, it will need to seek relief from a default in those cases, make a showing in accordance with the rule as Mr. Maloney said. If it chooses to go down that road and chooses to try and harmonize it in the Court, it's up to the discretion of the Court to decide how to proceed

but going through this process will ferret out what Sudan intends to do in the litigate with Arch and whether or

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1 not we can harmonize the proceedings among the various cases.

2 That seems the most straight forward approach.

3 THE COURT: Mr. Carter, so I'm understanding your  
4 mission is here, setting aside O'Neil, your recommendation to  
5 the Court would be to allow, essentially, grant the unopposed  
6 motion to amend the complaint. I guess, then the question is,  
7 are you seeking the Court's blessing on not reserving under  
8 1608, reserving the complaint? And then if the Sudan wants to  
9 come and either make claims about service or make claims about  
10 damages or whatever it wants to do, it can do at that time. Is  
11 that essentially your position?

12 MR. CARTER: Yes, your Honor. And I think we would  
13 ask for a ruling at this time that we're not required to serve.  
14 Again, I think we would then want in addition to that, your  
15 Honor, for the Court to set a deadline that failing an  
16 appearance by Sudan in these cases, the Court would proceed to  
17 set a date for an evidentiary hearing as to Sudan's liability  
18 for purposes of a default judgment. And so under the FSIA  
19 Sudan does receive some protections that are a bit unusual and  
20 not granted to other defendants, even in a default context and  
21 that would involve a requirement that plaintiffs come forward  
22 and present evidence satisfactory to the Court in order to  
23 sustained a default judgment.

24 So, once the amendment is in place, if a deadline is  
25 simply set that Sudan can either choose to appear or we're

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1 going to proceed onto the default judgment I'm hearing, that I  
2 think, will crystalize what's going to happen here.

3 If Sudan elects not to appear you know we have been  
4 going through a lengthy process over the years gathering  
5 evidence through FOIA requests to the State Department that  
6 were outstanding for thirteen years, FOIA requests to the CIA  
7 that were outstanding for six years, a subpoena to the state  
8 department and CIA was issued 2018 as a result of all those  
9 efforts, as well as the discovery that we've done as to other  
10 defendants relating to al-Qaeda Sudanese operations. We are in  
11 a position now to present a robust body of evident in that  
12 default hearing and we are essentially ready to go subject to  
13 the availability of our experts.

14 THE COURT: OK. Can I ask on the question of service  
15 which I've done, we've researched in preparation for today's  
16 conference, I think there is, it is an open question about  
17 whether or not in the posture that your cases are in, whether  
18 or not service needs to be affected pursuant to 1608. I guess  
19 I am wondering whether there is any case law to support the  
20 proposition that I should issue an order in advance allowing  
21 you or blessing you from not doing that. Wouldn't the more  
22 ordinary course is lawyers give the best advice they can give  
23 to their clients to see whether or not it's necessary to serve  
24 or not? And then if and when the issue is litigated, the Court  
25 will resolve the question? It feels a little like an advisory

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1       opinion for me to say in advance what you should be doing as  
2       far as service.

3                    MR. CARTER: Your Honor, I do think that plaintiffs  
4       have made similar requests in some of the cases that I've cited  
5       to your Honor and that the courts have issued orders.  
6       Candidly, I think that this may be an issue that just sort of  
7       falls by the roadside because in the event that Sudan elects to  
8       have counsel appear, you know, normally under Rule 5B once  
9       there's counsel appearing of record in the proceeding, papers  
10      are served on counsel and that sort of ends the process. And,  
11      perhaps, it's one of the reasons Sudan has elected not to  
12      appear thus far in other of the cases. But if we go through  
13      the amendment process and there's a deadline set failing, which  
14      there'd be a default judgment hearing, I think we'd have an  
15      appearance perhaps these things just resolve themselves.

16                  MR. HAEFELE: Your Honor, this is Robert Haefele.

17       I think Mr. Carter may have given you some of the  
18       citations about some of the cases I think your Honor might want  
19       look at for this issue are the In Re: Islamic Republic of Iran  
20       case and particularly, pages -- well, I know 106 but it might  
21       start a little earlier 104 and 105. And there's another case  
22       called Bellkin v. Islamic Republic of Iran. I'm sorry, your  
23       Honor. I only have the Lexus cite which is 220 U.S. District  
24       Lexus 130286 and I think it's at page seven, are two of cases  
25       that I know. There's probably others I think that are

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1 referenced in those.

2 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

3 And just to clarify one other point, it sounds to me  
4 what I'm hearing from, at least from the lawyers that have  
5 spoken this far is that I should treat the O'Neil case and the  
6 federal case and the Burnette case and possibly others but  
7 we'll stop with that, in the same posture. Meaning, I should  
8 authorize all of them to file an amended complaint and proceed  
9 to the default posture.

10 Is that correct?

11 MR. CARTER: Yes, we're asking that the Court  
12 authorize us to file the amendment and then again set a  
13 timeline failing an appearance at which a default hearing would  
14 being settled.

15 THE COURT: OK. All right. Thank you.

16 Before I turn to the plaintiff, let me just turn for a  
17 moment to the Ashton case. I think it's possible that there's  
18 a separate different request that's being made or maybe it's  
19 the same sort of request.

20 Who is speaking on behalf of the Ashton plaintiffs?

21 MR. MALONEY: Andrew Maloney, your Honor. Thanks.

22 The reason we made a separate request and filed a  
23 separate letter is because after drafting our complaint,  
24 amended complaint against the Sudan we tried to harmonize with  
25 the, their both lengthy complaints but we felt the need again

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1 to file our own amended version of the CAC which you may  
2 recall, we did against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And I  
3 think it shouldn't, I don't think it should be a problem for  
4 the defendant or the Court in terms of proceeding in a  
5 consolidated fashion just like we've done in all the other  
6 cases, in most particular against the kingdom.

7 There are a lot of smart people, a lot of smart  
8 lawyers on the BEC but we don't always agree on everything and  
9 we want to be able to file our own Ashton complaints. I know  
10 that Mr. Flemming is on the line for the Maher group and I  
11 believe that his clients used to be original Ashton plaintiffs.  
12 So, they have the benefit of the default. And I think his  
13 motion a few days ago was to adopt a short form of the Ashton  
14 complaint. I assume if we file an amended complaint we'd want  
15 to redo the same for that. So, we believe that two complaints  
16 in this case would still be fairly easy for the Court, for the  
17 parties, plaintiffs and the defendant, to be able to do what  
18 needs to be done moving forward.

19 THE COURT: I hate to say this but I had a little  
20 technical difficulty right when you started talking about Mr.  
21 Flemming's cases.

22 MR. MALONEY: I can start again, your Honor.  
23 Mr. Flemming has some clients that is used to be plaintiffs in  
24 the Ashton action for the, retained him and his firm and he  
25 recently filed a motion to adopt the Ashton complaint in a

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1 short form. He wants to file a new complaint in the short form  
2 essentially adopting the original Ashton complaint against  
3 them. Those particular plaintiffs had the benefit of the  
4 default that we got for them many years ago. And I assume that  
5 moving forward Ashton filed an amended complaint against the  
6 Sudan, next the Maher group would want to do the same thing and  
7 adopt the Ashton amended complaint as well.

8 THE COURT: OK. Let me just go back one more to the  
9 question I have before I turn to defendants. With respect to  
10 the 2018 new complaint that was filed against Sudan, there's  
11 been no default and to the contrary (inaudible) has appeared in  
12 a timely fashion. So that case is going to move forward  
13 regardless. How does that affect the other cases we have been  
14 talking about?

15 MR. CARTER: Your Honor, I should have addressed this  
16 previously. The 2018 complaint is sort of a quintessential  
17 late file tagalong. It's not a product of the plaintiff's  
18 executive committee efforts, sort of no different than any  
19 other tagalong pleading filed in MDL. The case management  
20 orders is the overall arching purpose of the MDL dictate that  
21 the principle proceeding that the common claims will be  
22 conducted pursuant to the plaintiff's executive committee's  
23 filings in the lead action and the process shouldn't be driven  
24 by a later filed tagalong case.

25 So, what we're proposing here is that the 2018

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1 complaint would go along with the other cases that are  
2 proposing to file the consolidated pleading updating the  
3 sources of law. So, there would be then functionally amended  
4 pleading in that case as well. And again, Sudan would have the  
5 same sort of decision to make at that point. Doesn't want to  
6 continue to appear in that case in the face of consolidated  
7 pleading and doesn't want to defend that case and doesn't  
8 similarly want to then seek relief from the defaults in order  
9 to proceed in the other cases.

10 You know, until we know whether or not there's going  
11 to be a different posture on Sudan's part with regard to those,  
12 it doesn't seem necessary to address the issue. But if Sudan  
13 seeks relief from the default, we'll have litigation over that  
14 issue. And if there are cases that end up in different  
15 procedural postures, that's just a reflection of the fact that  
16 there is one action filed something on the order of 13/14 years  
17 after the others.

18 MR. GOLDMAN: Your Honor, this is Jerry Goldman. I  
19 completely agree with what Mr. Carter said.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 So, I am not quite sure that the law would say to  
22 Sudan, you've got all of these opportunities for 15 years to  
23 show up at that party. You never showed up. Now a late filed  
24 complaint comes in and you decide to show up. You've waived  
25 your right to oppose and defend against that late filed

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1 complaint. I don't think that the law would permit for that.  
2 So, I'm not sure what is to be authorized.

3 MR. MALONEY: Your Honor, I'm not taking issue what  
4 that in any way but it seems to me that it is a tale on the  
5 larger beast here and perhaps, that complaint and their motion  
6 can be stayed until we find out how we're proceeding in the  
7 vast majority of the rest of the MDL with the other defaulted  
8 cases against the Sudan.

9 THE COURT: All right. Well, why don't we turn now to  
10 hear from Sudan, what they intend to do or what they're seeking  
11 to do.

12 MR. LEDDICOTTE: This is Matthew Leddicotte.

13 I think I might offer some clarifying comments. And  
14 also I am prepared to speak on the issue of what service of an  
15 amended complaint does with respect to the entries of default  
16 that exist with certificate of default in three cases. My  
17 colleague, Nicolle Kownacki will be able to address issues of  
18 whether or not that the plaintiffs that are seeking file a  
19 consolidated amended complaint or perhaps more than one amended  
20 complaint should be permitted to do so. But if I can reset I  
21 think a couple of issue first, I think that could be helpful to  
22 the Court.

23 THE COURT: OK.

24 MR. CARTER: Your Honor, this is Sean Carter. I  
25 apologize for interjecting in this way but we think it

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1 important just to note on the record that there's simply not an  
2 appearance in many of these cases by Sudan and there seems to  
3 be some tactical reason for that and yet counsel is directing  
4 arguments to cases in which Sudan hasn't appeared. And so I do  
5 need to note before this begins that we do object to that. I  
6 just wanted to make clear that position.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 MR. FLOWERS: I was going to make the same objection.  
9 Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. And that fact is not lost on  
11 the Court, sir.

12 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Matthew Leddicotte.

13 May I proceed?

14 THE COURT: Yes.

15 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Let me as an initial matter just say  
16 now that we will appear on the record in all of the cases here.  
17 As you our letter to the Court and our prior letters to the  
18 plaintiffs counsel leading up to this conference as stated,  
19 Sudan is prepared to litigate this action. That is with we are  
20 working and have been working with plaintiff's counsel over the  
21 last several months to figure out a coordinated and  
22 consolidated way to --

23 THE COURT: So, on that point, Mr. Leddicotte, if I  
24 order you to file appearances in the next ten days in all the  
25 cases, will you comply with that order?

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1 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Yes.

2 THE COURT: All right. Proceed.

3 MR. LEDDICOTTE: And your Honor, we filed notices of  
4 appearance in the main MDL docket and the O'Neil sub-docket  
5 when we responded to the O'Neil, the two O'Neil cases in our  
6 motion to dismiss filed earlier this year. I think on the  
7 issue of the O'Neil cases I think it is important note, I think  
8 it's been described by counsel as a late filed tagalong and or  
9 a standalone action. The 2018 O'Neil complaint itself purports  
10 by its own words to be, quote, a supplement but not supplant or  
11 supersede, unquote, it's 2005 amended complaint, quote, solely  
12 in order to add new causes of action. So, I think when you're  
13 supplementing the complaint the allegations are fundamentally  
14 identical. The identities of the parties are the same and you  
15 can describe your 2018 complaint as solely in order to add new  
16 causes of action, i.e. new claims. That does not strike me as  
17 a tagalong action or a standalone action. It is inherently  
18 linked to the original action filed in 2005. Excuse me. I  
19 think the amended complaint in the action was filed in 2005. I  
20 believe the original complaint in that earlier action was in  
21 2006.

22 As we a stated in our motion to dismiss, we think that  
23 that 2018 filing actually is an unauthorized amendment of the  
24 complaint because the complaint filed by O'Neil in 2004 had  
25 already been amended once in 2005. So, the second amendment to

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1 add new claims is an unauthorized amendment.

2 I think also stepping back for a moment about  
3 plaintiff's counsel issues with what Sudan has done, I think  
4 it's important to recall for the Court and we have that in our  
5 letters to the Court, once Sudan was served with the O'Neil  
6 2018 complaint, it responded and filed a motion to dismiss  
7 within the time allotted. Immediately thereafter, plaintiff's  
8 executive reached out to counsel for Sudan and we began with  
9 them a process of engaging in meet and confer to try and deal  
10 with a coordinated consolidated way of moving these cases  
11 forward. It is not that the passage of time since January or  
12 February has been without attempting to work with plaintiff's  
13 counsel to try and go forward and to work with the way that  
14 will go forward in these cases with Sudan's intent to litigate  
15 the cases that are before it now.

16 I would also like to clarify, I think your Honor said  
17 more clearly but I think there's been commentary on it but I  
18 think it's important to clarify in terms of whether where there  
19 have been and have not been entries of default and a couple of  
20 unique issues with the certificates of default, the entries of  
21 default that do exist.

22 Plaintiff's counsel has talked about five cases,  
23 Ashton, Burnette, Federal Insurance, Continental Casualty and  
24 O'Neil. There are only entries of default, certificates of  
25 default in Ashton, Burnette and Federal Insurance. There are

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1 no entries of default and no certificates of default against  
2 Sudan and Continental Casualty and in O'Neil.

3 If I'm understanding the plaintiff's counsel correctly  
4 that the Burnette and Federal Insurance cases now want to  
5 attempt to maintain their defaults, that is actually a change  
6 in position from the letter that they've submitted to the Court  
7 on June 18 and the discussion of the position is that the  
8 parties have had through the course of our meet and confer. It  
9 is only the Ashton plaintiffs, at least in the letters filed  
10 with that Court who are seeking to maintain the entry of  
11 default after they've failed an filed amended complaint. And  
12 in fact they've raised that --

13 THE COURT: Can I just remind anybody who's joining  
14 the call to mute their line.

15 MR. LEDDICOTTE: And as I was saying, from the letters  
16 submitted to the Court and the positions as we understand it,  
17 it's totally the Ashton case that is seeking to maintain its  
18 default. And Ashton expressed that for the first time in their  
19 letter to the Court. The letters to the Court, both the  
20 plaintiffs and Sudan's, contain the back and forth the parties  
21 went through to get to this point. And up until the June 18  
22 letters to the Court, certainly, how the plaintiffs have  
23 represented their positions to us was that they wanted to go  
24 forward with amended complaint with the relief from entries of  
25 default in the three cases in which they have them.

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I think it's important also to go into some detail about the entry of default in the Ashton case. It does not apply to approximately half of the Ashton plaintiffs. The Ashton, there was a consolidated master complaint filed in Ashton on March 6, 2003 -- that is in the Ashton docket at ECF 11 -- and had approximately roughly 1300 plaintiffs. The affidavit of service which is in the Ashton docket at number 358, indicates that that master complaint was served on Sudan in April of 2003. Past that time there have actually been six amendments to the consolidated master complaint in Ashton. Those amendments have the same allegations fundamentally regarding Sudan and the same legal claims are asserted but the key difference is that those amended complaints add approximately another 1300 plaintiffs to the Ashton action. But the Ashton certificate of, clerk certificate of default which was entered on December 22, 2011 is based expressly on March 2003 consolidated master complaint, not any of the six amended complaints. So, I think it's also important to realize that whatever certificate of default that some of the Ashton plaintiffs have is not as to all of the Ashton plaintiffs.

(Loud music playing; Parties have disconnected and rejoined the conference)

THE COURT: I am going to do a quick roll call and see if you are here.

Andrew Maloney?

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1 MR. MALONEY: Here, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: James Tyler?

3 MR. MALONEY: Don't worry about him he is my partner.

4 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Goldman.

5 MR. GOLDMAN: I am here, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Haefelete?

7 MR. HAEFELE: Here, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Flowers?

9 MS. FLOWERS: Here, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Carter.

11 MR. CARTER: Yes, your Honor, I am here.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Flemming.

13 MR. FLEMMING: Yes, your Honor. I am here.

14 THE COURT: Do we have Mr. Leddicotte?

15 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Yes, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Ms. Kownacki.

17 MS. KOWNACKI: Yes, your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Erb.

19 MS. ERB: Yes, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: OK. I think we all are on again. Thank

21 you.

22 Let me remind everybody to mute your line if you are  
23 not speaking and Mr. Leddicotte was speaking. So, the only  
24 people whose line should be open right now are me and  
25 Mr. Leddicotte. I think going forward for 9/11 case we're

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1 going to use another system so we can put a line in for people  
2 to "listen only" and we can avoid the problems that we just  
3 experienced.

4 OK. Mr. Leddicotte, I believe you were talking about  
5 the Ashton case and your view that the default only is related  
6 to those initial, approximately, 1300 plaintiffs in the  
7 original complaint and would not include those complaints,  
8 those amended complaints filed thereafter which added another  
9 possibly 1300 plaintiffs.

10 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Thank you, your Honor.

11 Yes, that's correct. I think it sounds that at least  
12 you and I were interrupted by the music at the same time. So,  
13 what I was concluded on is that the certificate of default that  
14 the clerk issued with respect to the Ashton case expressly  
15 references the consolidated master complaint from March of  
16 2003, not any of the other six amended complaints. In the  
17 docket there do not appear to be any affidavits of service on  
18 Sudan regarding those six amended consolidated master  
19 complaints. So, that means that those 1300 approximately  
20 plaintiffs added by the first through six amended consolidated  
21 master complaint have not served Sudan.

22 Why is this important? The case law that your Honor  
23 has already referenced but that also exists from Rule 5A2  
24 require that amended complaints be served on a non appearing  
25 defendant whether or not there has been a certificate of

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1 default, just simply that the time to appear has lapsed or has  
2 expired if there are new claims, and the case law indicates  
3 quite clear that will new plaintiffs are considered new claims  
4 for the purpose of 5A2. So, if those cases haven't been  
5 served, they are still in a lack of service posture.

6 That's where the Ashton case has been. I want to deal  
7 with the Federal Insurance entry of default just to clarify a  
8 few points and then I think move to what happened with the  
9 proposal for an amended complaint with respect to defaults, as  
10 well as allow my colleague Ms. Kownacki to speak to whether or  
11 not there should be a consolidated amended complaint.

12 On the Federal Insurance entry of default it does not  
13 appear in either the Federal Insurance or MDL 1570 dockets.  
14 Mr. Carter I think referenced and it is correct, he provided us  
15 with what appears to be a signed clerk certificate of default  
16 that is dated September 9, 2005. But that signed certificate  
17 we cannot find it on either the Federal Insurance sub-docket or  
18 the MDL 1570 master docket. It's a bit confusing as to what is  
19 going on there. We certainly do see that on September 13,  
20 2005, an affidavit in support of the request for the clerk's  
21 certificate of default against Sudan and other parties was  
22 filed that included an unsigned proposed certificate. That  
23 affidavit was dated a few days earlier on 9/8/2005. But again,  
24 the signed certificate by the clerk is not in the docket.

25 If the Federal Insurance case is not trying to

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1 maintain its entry of default, if they're permitted to amend  
2 their complaint, I don't think that's an issue. If it is, I  
3 think it potentially is because in the context of entries of  
4 default in that proceeding technicalities like this do matter  
5 and are looked at that way.

6 I am going to take your issue out of order but we  
7 seemed to focus quite a bit on the issue of defaults. And I  
8 think it's important to actually address maybe that second  
9 issue your order first. What does service of a consolidated  
10 amended complaint do to entries of default that exist again,  
11 here, in three cases but not in all five cases? We've  
12 addressed this in our letter and cited in particular to Vesco  
13 and some other cases from the Second Circuit and the  
14 applications of those from the Southern District and the  
15 Eastern District of New York. I would note that the case law  
16 that plaintiff's counsel has addressed to you, they've not put  
17 in letters to the Court in either their opening letters or in  
18 the one reply letter that was filed as to us.

19 If your Honor is inclined to go there, we would  
20 request supplemental briefing on that so that we may look at  
21 what those cases actually say and stand for and potentially  
22 meaningful differences with the posture of the case such as  
23 whether or not the sovereign defendants in those cases had ever  
24 appeared in any way which would contrast to Sudan here which is  
25 appearing, now is participating in this conference, has filed a

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1 motion to dismiss in O'Neil and has signaled to the Court and  
2 to the plaintiffs, our intention to litigate this matter fully.

3 If your Honor were to authorize a consolidated amended  
4 complaint, either one or more than one, that does mute any  
5 prior entries of default. In Vesco, the Second Circuit is  
6 quite clear that an amended complaint supersedes the original  
7 and renders it of no legal affect. The only question about  
8 that is when does that amended complaint supersede the original  
9 complaint? There's one of two times. Either at the time the  
10 amended complaint is filed if it contains no new claims and  
11 does not have to be served under Rule 5A2 that you can find  
12 case law support for that in Yadgarov, which is an Eastern  
13 District of New York case, 2014 U.S. District Lexus 368, as  
14 well as a Southern District of New York case called Benevidez,  
15 which is at 2013 U.S. District Lexus 76154. If there are no  
16 new claims then it does not have to be filed. Or the other  
17 time that the amended complaint would supersede the original  
18 complaint is the time it is served and the service is required  
19 if it contains new claims and thus Rule 5A2 kicks in requires  
20 that an amended pleading even be served on non appearing  
21 defendants if it contains new claims. This is --

22 THE COURT: Can I stop you for a second? Non  
23 appearing defendant because you've just told me that you're  
24 going to file an appearance. So, if the procedure here is that  
25 the parties file an amended complaint, why can't they just, you

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1 just accept service? Why isn't just filing an amended  
2 complaint service on your client.

3 MR. LEDDICOTTE: Thank you, your Honor. Yes, I think  
4 we actually get to both points. Filing appearance would mean  
5 that we are an appearing defendant and that means that the  
6 amended complaint would be active at the time of filing and  
7 would vitiate the original complaints at that time and be the  
8 active complaint.

9 If for some reason we were not an appearing defendant,  
10 which is not position we're taking. We have said we will all  
11 appear and we will appear. Then even at that point Sudan is  
12 willing consistent with the (inaudible) Service Rule to accept  
13 service through the ECF filing mechanisms of the amended  
14 complaint. So, service is not an issue. So, it would  
15 simultaneously at either time now.

16 Appearing has always been our intention. We are  
17 appeared for O'Neil because that was a motion we were filing.  
18 Days later the plaintiff's executive counsel reached out to us  
19 and we were working with them to come up with a consolidated  
20 method of handling this complaint. So, the concept that they  
21 have suggested that we are somehow trying not to appear  
22 selectively in different cases in this MDL, that's not the  
23 case. Yes, there is an appearance in O'Neil because that was  
24 the first motion filed. We've engaged with them regarding what  
25 should happen in the other sub-cases within this MDL and our

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1 intention is to litigate those.

2 So, under Vesco at the time of filing or service,  
3 again, they're coterminous here because we are appearing and  
4 we're willing to accept service through ECF of an amended  
5 complaint if your Honor permits the plaintiffs to do that, that  
6 is when that amended complaint goes active. And several courts  
7 have found as the Yadgarov decision says, citing several cases  
8 both at page 21 in that decision and Footnote 12 from across  
9 the federal courts, several courts have found that once the  
10 original complaint is superseded the clerk's entry of default  
11 on the prior pleading is muted.

12 So, filing amended complaint will mute the entry of  
13 default. Filing amended complaint, if your Honor permits it,  
14 will mute the entries of default on the previous complaints,  
15 the consolidated master complaint from 2003 in Ashton. I  
16 believe it is the first amended Federal Insurance complaint and  
17 I believe it is the third amended Burnette complaint.

18 THE COURT: Let me ask you a question. Obviously,  
19 I'll ask the same question of the plaintiff. If it sounds like  
20 service is no longer an issue thankfully and we can take that  
21 off the table, why is it the best way to proceed the following?  
22 I order you and you comply and file an appearance in every  
23 case. The plaintiffs file whatever amended consolidated  
24 complaint we all agree they are going to file. You can then  
25 file your motion to dismiss those complaints. And in

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1 opposition to those motions to dismiss they can say no, no,  
2 those motions are irrelevant because default has been entered  
3 and the Court should proceed to a damages inquest? I think  
4 that's the most efficient way to proceed here.

5 MR. LEDDICOTTE: If you will allow me just one moment,  
6 your Honor?

7 (Pause)

8 MR. LEDDICOTTE: So, yes, I think with one caveat, we  
9 agree that that's an efficient way to proceed. Our one caveat  
10 is and I've mentioned that my colleague Ms. Kownacki will  
11 address this, we oppose an amendment but should your Honor  
12 allow an amendment and we believe that if you allow it it  
13 should be a single consolidated complaint which Ms. Kownacki  
14 can address but should your Honor allow an amendment, yes, we  
15 agree that that's an efficient way to proceed.

16 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

17 MR. LEDDICOTTE: I was going to propose that  
18 Ms. Kownacki could address whether or not an amendment is  
19 appropriate and if an amendment be allowed that it be a single  
20 consolidated complaint, not two or multiple.

21 THE COURT: OK. I was going turn to her now.

22 MS. KOWNACKI: Thank you, your Honor. This Nicole  
23 Kownacki.

24 As my colleague said (inaudible) has no objection to  
25 consolidation but Sudan objects to the plaintiff's request to

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1 amend the complaint for three reasons. The plaintiffs are  
2 using this amendment to bring stale claims. They have never  
3 explained their substantial delays in prosecuting these cases.  
4 And their proposal for the amendment, we don't see as  
5 streamlined efficient unless it is a single consolidated  
6 amended complaint.

7 As to the plaintiff's point about purported new facts  
8 that have come to light as recently as 2018, the O'Neil  
9 supplemental complaint postdated that timeframe and yet the  
10 O'Neil plaintiffs failed to include these new facts in their  
11 supplemental complaint and they are now seeking to amend after  
12 Sudan has already (inaudible) efforts to amend.

13 And then the remaining plaintiffs are apparently  
14 seeking to bring claims to update the law but they're seeking  
15 to bring their claims under 1605 A and B exceptions to  
16 sovereign immunity but there are time limitations and  
17 transition rules there that the plaintiffs are clearly trying  
18 to circumvent with respect to the --

19 THE COURT: If you are reading something it goes  
20 quicker. Please, slow down.

21 MS. KOWNACKI: The transition rules that Congress  
22 established when it enacted CPLR 3A, the plaintiffs were  
23 applied to cases like plaintiff's cases so pending in 2008 when  
24 plaintiffs brought their claim. And Congress made clear that  
25 any conversion to 1605A had to happen in those pending cases by

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1 end of March 2008. Plaintiffs here have failed to convert  
2 their cases on time and now the time for bringing new CPL5A  
3 action just like and AGA action has capped.

4 Sudan particularly as a foreign sovereign is entitled  
5 to some certainty over what claims could be brought and it  
6 should not be (inaudible) plaintiffs who have been waiting  
7 silently in the wings with dormant cases for over a decade now  
8 trying to use an amendment process to bring sealed claims to  
9 circumvent the transition rules. This amounts to an  
10 unnecessarily protracted litigation.

11 THE COURT: I am sure the plaintiff will say this if I  
12 gave him the opportunity but it does feel like a little bit of  
13 hubris for Sudan to complain that the plaintiff has been  
14 delaying actions when these claims have been pending against  
15 your client for more than a dozen years.

16 MS. ERB: I appreciate that Sudan has not appeared in  
17 these actions for many years but we reject plaintiff's counsels  
18 accusations of an intentional delay. It is very much in the  
19 public record in the years since plaintiff filed these  
20 complaints Sudan has faced catastrophic civil war and natural  
21 disasters, followed by civil unrest that led to a total regime  
22 change in just 2019. And Sudan's new transitional government  
23 has been in place only approximately a year. And in the  
24 interim Sudan has vastly improved its relationship with the  
25 United States and is actively litigating these cases pending

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1 against it throughout the United States.

2 Sudan's lack of appearance does not excuse plaintiffs'  
3 failure to prosecute their claims, particularly, in the last  
4 five years where Sudan has been actively litigating cases  
5 throughout the country including before the Supreme Court.  
6 Plaintiff has not offered any explanation for their own delay  
7 and leaving these cases dormant including while they pursue  
8 cases against Saudi Arabia and default judgments against Iran  
9 in this case.

10 Plaintiffs otherwise active pursuant of cases  
11 especially in this MDL and counsel's knowledge of the law and  
12 the fact that Sudan was actively litigating in other cases and  
13 their awareness of the transition rules, there's no reason why  
14 plaintiffs should not be amending their complaint particularly  
15 to add stale claims.

16 My other point about the consolidation and the lack of  
17 efficiency of plaintiffs' proposed approach, plaintiffs  
18 proposed to file two separate amended complaints but this  
19 doesn't streamline the proceeding as they suggest. If Sudan  
20 has to respond to multi complaints, it can do so with the  
21 complaints that plaintiffs have already filed.

22 But if the Court is going to grant plaintiff's belated  
23 amendment, Sudan would request that the Court only permit a  
24 single consolidated amended complaint as the Court has  
25 discretion to do because plaintiff are at times otherwise and

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1 they have no right to bring an amended complaint since they've  
2 already used their (inaudible) right.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 All right. Me turn to the plaintiff. Maybe I'll just  
5 I'll begin with my proposal for a going forward process here  
6 and ask somebody from the plaintiffs to respond. What I'm  
7 proposing is that the counsel for Sudan file an appearance in  
8 each of the cases, that the plaintiffs file an amended  
9 complaint and I'll put an as asterisk on that and if you could  
10 address the issue that was last raised about one or more  
11 complaints, that the defendant then file a motion to dismiss  
12 the amended complaint, that the plaintiff could then both  
13 oppose that motion and simultaneously argue if that is their  
14 intention, that the defaults that have been entered by the  
15 Court should remain and that the Court should simply deny the  
16 motion to dismiss and set an evidentiary hearing as 1608  
17 requires for default damages. So, we could address all of it  
18 in full motion practice. That seems me right not the most  
19 efficient way to proceed.

20 And I think from what I've heard from the defendants  
21 they agree with that proposal with the caveat about the  
22 amendments that obviously they have proposed the amendment on  
23 the main. But if we were to allow it, that be would an  
24 acceptable proposal. So, let me hear from the plaintiffs their  
25 reaction to that proposal

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1                   MR. CARTER: Sean Carter. Sorry Mr. Maloney and I are  
2 stepping over one another.

3                   In general, your Honor, at least from our perspective,  
4 the process your Honor described, it seems generally workable.  
5 I think the one concern would be that in consenting that some  
6 processes in which Sudan were permitted to file a motion  
7 without there having been an application seeking formal relief  
8 for default, we may be inadvertently waiving the protections of  
9 the default. And as you probably heard, Sudan has a bit of a  
10 history of raising highly technical arguments after ignoring  
11 proceedings for quite some time and many of the arguments you  
12 just heard from counsel about civil unrest and the like have  
13 been presented to other courts which have not found them  
14 credible. There's informative discussion about this in the  
15 Flanagan decision which is 190 F.Supp.F.3d at 138. And so  
16 we're mindful of that and we're mindful of proceeding in a way  
17 that's quite technical.

18                  So, what I would proceed, your Honor, is that Sudan be  
19 required to in its motion and a motion it's filing address not  
20 only the basis for its motion to dismiss but its arguments for  
21 claiming that the defaults do not remain in place and to  
22 address why defaults should be lifted if they are still in  
23 place in that initial filing so we can respond so that.

24                  We would also as a result of that get the benefit of  
25 Sudan addressing issues that we think are quite critical about

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1 the willfulness of its failure to appeal and about potential  
2 prejudice. And the one thing that we don't want to have happen  
3 here is for Sudan to appear for purposes solely of making a  
4 technical argument even though it knows that it does not have  
5 an intention to participate in discovery should the Court deem  
6 that to be the appropriate course and as part of the proffer  
7 with regard to why the default shouldn't remain in place that  
8 would necessarily require Sudan to confirm that evidence is  
9 still available and the witnesses would be made available.

10 So, your Honor, I think it's the same process, just  
11 with Sudan also addressing the default issue in whatever motion  
12 it filed.

13 THE COURT: Understood.

14 OK. Thank you.

15 MR. MALONEY: Your Honor, just to add to that, I'm  
16 glad Mr. Carter covered the points I was going to make. The  
17 only one that I wanted to add was Sudan has, its current  
18 posture right now is we can move to dismiss all the complaints  
19 out there, five after six complaints, and yet, if there is an  
20 amended complaint -- that is two too many, I am not sure I  
21 follow the logic of that. They can respond to a single motion  
22 to five complaints, they can certainly do the two. The Ashton  
23 plaintiffs would like to file their own complaint. We would  
24 continue to work collectively as the (inaudible) for over 16  
25 years and we would have a joint response as we've always done.

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1                   THE COURT: The motion itself would be a joint  
2 response, the opposition you're saying.

3                   MR. MALONEY: The opposition. I assume they'd have a  
4 joint motion and we'd have a joint opposition.

5                   THE COURT: Right. Well, obviously the Sudan wasn't  
6 in the case at the time but this issue was actively litigated  
7 before the consolidated amended complaints were filed against  
8 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. And I recall relatively vividly  
9 the colloquy between me and Mr. Kreindler about why his client  
10 should have an opportunity to file their own complaint whereas,  
11 everybody else was joining in all the amended complaints. We  
12 had a lengthy colloquy as I recall. And ultimately I allowed  
13 it after a fair amount of thought but ultimately allowed it.  
14 So, I think given the fact that I have spent a significant  
15 amount of time addressing that particular issue and I've now  
16 seen it borne out in the case against the kingdom, I am  
17 satisfied that it's probably the right thing to do for the same  
18 reasons I allowed it respective to the claims against the  
19 kingdom and it has not proven to be overly burdensome as far as  
20 I can tell in managing the litigation into discovery.

21                   So, my inclination is to allow the two complaints, the  
22 Ashton complaint and then the other consolidated amended  
23 complaint. I'll give an opportunity to Mr. Flemming to speak  
24 but my understanding is that it was his intention to simply  
25 join the allegations filed in the Ashton complaint so that it

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1 would be, they would be adopted in the short form complaint.

2 Mr. Flemming, is that your intention?

3 MR. FLEMMING: Yes, your Honor, that is correct. The  
4 Maher plans came from the Ashton case or cases that were  
5 consolidated were associated with Ashton and so we thought it  
6 does make sense given all the other issues with regard to how  
7 the complaints should be presented. So, we haven't seen what  
8 the Kreindler firm intends to do as far as the amended  
9 complaint. But we at this point our object is to just make  
10 their sure that these clients are represented and we're happy  
11 to and tend to do what Mr. Maloney suggested earlier which was  
12 correct which is to follow along in Ashton and adopt the  
13 complaint. We obviously took a short form complaint from the  
14 Court's approach in the Saudi cases. If that's satisfactory,  
15 that would be fine and we would be joining in the amended  
16 complaint. We're adopting it as well. If Court wants us to do  
17 something a little different we certainly would. We thought  
18 that made the most sense in this context to use the construct  
19 that the Court had made, had designed in the Saudi cases but  
20 yes, so that is correct, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: OK. Well, I do think that the procedures  
22 that have been set forth in the claims against Saudi Arabia and  
23 against Iran are limited to those defendants and so any short  
24 form procedure that we would adopt, I think would require an  
25 additional order of the Court so that any other parties that

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1 join in either to the Ashton complaint or what I think is more  
2 likely the consolidated amended complaint, have a simple  
3 procedure for joining those claims.

4 MS. KOWNACKI: Your Honor, if I may just quickly  
5 address --

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MS. KOWNACKI: To the point about the two complaints  
8 that proceeded against the kingdom, I just want to point out  
9 the decision there was all the complains were being filed prior  
10 to the statute of limitations expiring on those claims and that  
11 is not the case here. So, the only option for plaintiffs for  
12 bringing their 1605A 1605B claims without, we object on  
13 timeliness grounds. But their only option is in those amended  
14 complaints and they cannot file a new complaint. The  
15 distinction here is that these are, a single complaint could be  
16 a streamlined procedure to move forward and there isn't an  
17 opportunity for additional plaintiffs to separately file a  
18 complaint by right.

19 THE COURT: Understood.

20 MR. HAEFELE: First, that seems to me that that would  
21 be the argument that Sudan would be permitted to make in their  
22 motion to dismiss as opposed to before there was any filings  
23 because until the kingdom or until Sudan were to appear in the  
24 case and raise the objection or raise the defense, the defense  
25 isn't actually raised. And there may be other reasons and the

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1 plaintiff's position is that there are other reasons why the  
2 statute of limitations that the Sudan is arguing applies  
3 doesn't apply and we would use that in defense. So, it seems  
4 that it's putting the cart before the horse if you were to  
5 apply it now.

6 THE COURT: Understood.

7 On the issue of whether there should be one Ashton  
8 complaint and one consolidated amended complaint again, I've  
9 spent a significant amount of time thinking about this in  
10 connection with the Saudi Arabia claims. I appreciate the  
11 arguments that defense counsel made as why this posture is  
12 different than that posture but I think the reasons why I  
13 allowed it in the first place remain same. And again, I have  
14 been living with the claims against Saudi Arabia and in my  
15 experience it has not been unduly burdensome for defendants to  
16 manage two separate complaints. So, I am going to authorize  
17 two complaints albeit, consolidated amended complaints. There  
18 will be the Ashton complaint. And the parties should propose  
19 procedures for other parties to join in a short form complaint.  
20 Those complaints as we've done in the claims against -- Saudi  
21 Arabia and the Iran. So, those will be the two complaints. I am  
22 going to authorize the filing of the amended complaints and  
23 direct that the defendants file a consolidated motion to  
24 dismiss those complaints. It'll be one motion to dismiss both  
25 complaints and the motion should also address the issue of

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1 whether or not the amended complaint by their filing vitiates  
2 the defaults that have been entered in the complaint, in the  
3 cases and any arguments that the Sudan has as to those  
4 defaults. Then there'll be a single consolidated opposition to  
5 the motion to dismiss and if an appropriate opposition to the  
6 issue of whether the default remain valid and whether or not  
7 the Court should not just move to the next phase under the  
8 default protocol of the statutes or whether or not the defaults  
9 have in fact been vitiated by the filing of the amended  
10 complaint and then there'll be a reply brief filed by the  
11 Sudan.

12 I'm also going to direct that by next Friday,  
13 August 14, that counsel for the defendants file a notice of  
14 appearance in all of the relevant cases and that then will  
15 handle the issue of service so the amended complaints will be  
16 served on counsel.

17 What I would like to do is to give the parties an  
18 opportunity to meet and confer on dates and get back to me on a  
19 proposal for dates. So, we need dates after filing of the  
20 amended complaint and then a briefing schedule on the motions.  
21 In addition, we need a proposed order which I think can mirror  
22 the orders that exist in the other cases for the other  
23 defendants for the short form complaint process. So, I'll also  
24 direct that the parties meet and confer on that issue and  
25 submit something to me for my consideration.

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1           All right. I think that addresses all of the issues  
2 on today's agenda. Let me ask the plaintiffs whether there are  
3 any other applications?

4           MR. CARTER: Nothing from me.

5           MR. MALONEY: Nothing from Ashton, your Honor.

6           MR. HAEFELE: Nothing from me either.

7           MS. FLOWERS: Your Honor, this is Joan E. Flowers. I  
8 have to say one thing for the record.

9           There were a lot of statements made about delay and  
10 dormancy and how the claims against the Sudan were stale. I  
11 have to put on the record that Sudan has been a defendant since  
12 August 15 in 2002 when we named them in the original Burnette  
13 complaint and ever since. So, we dispute those  
14 characterizations.

15           THE COURT: Thank you.

16           Any further applications from the defendant?

17           MR. LEDDICOTTE: We understand the procedure you've  
18 outlined. I just want to be clear that in this discussion and  
19 understanding that procedure that one, we will file our  
20 appearances today. And two, Sudan in doing this is preserving  
21 all of the objections that may be and defenses and immunities  
22 that may be available to it if to be raised in motion to  
23 dismiss that you outlined including timeliness.

24           I think differing from the procedure against the  
25 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that was within the clear statute of

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1 limitations for those these events, we are now beyond that  
2 statute of limitations. So that I just want to be clear that  
3 we are preserving our objections on that front should we need  
4 to make them in the motion to dismiss once we see the Ashton  
5 complaint and the consolidated amended complaint.

6 And I do think it's important, I've heard what  
7 Ms. Flowers has said. We do take objection to having, when the  
8 government come along and served with a 2018 O'Neil complaint  
9 and timely filed our motion to dismiss and the process we've  
10 engaged in since early February with the plaintiffs that  
11 somehow that Sudan as a litigating party having appeared in  
12 O'Neil and participated and going towards all of the actions  
13 once we were engaged with the plaintiffs starting in February  
14 has been interposed and delay as we've worked with plaintiffs  
15 and now with your Honor and the Court to come up with this  
16 consolidated procedure.

17 THE COURT: Understood.

18 OK. I think that addresses everything. So, I will  
19 lookout for the defendants' notices of appears. And if the  
20 parties can get back to me in no later than two weeks from now  
21 I think that should be adequate time to submit a promote postal  
22 or briefing schedule and the filing of the amended complaints.

23 Great. With that, I believe we are adjourned.

24 Thank you everybody. Be safe.

25 (Adjourned)